

ACLU-TN Legislative Highlights: Free Speech and Assembly

110th Tennessee General Assembly – 2017



Bill	Bill Description	Bill Status	Position
SB 0548 (Ketron) HB 0406 (Carter)	As introduced, establishes protection of persons exercising rights of expression, including constitutional rights of expression on matters of public concern. Specifies civil procedures that encourage and safeguard the constitutional rights of persons to participate in government to the maximum extent permitted by law and also protect the rights of persons to file meritorious lawsuits for demonstrable injury.	Current Status	
SB 0872 (Yarbro) HB 1261 (Townes)	As introduced, prohibits a law enforcement officer from seizing or destroying a person's photograph or recording of an event or person if it is not illegal and the person is in a place the person has a right to be when photographed or recorded; allows law enforcement to petition court for copy of certain photographic material.	Current Status	Support
SB 0944 (Ketron) SB 0668 (Hill, M)	As introduced, grants immunity to automobile drivers who injure another person blocking traffic while protesting. Specifies that immunity will not be granted if the actions were willful or wanton.	Current Status	Oppose
SB 1089 (Ketron) HB 1199 (Rudd)	As introduced, prohibits state or local governments from regulating the shape and quantity of political signs placed on private property; prohibits homeowners associations from prospectively prohibiting by contract or covenant the placement of political signs by an owner or lawful resident of the association.	Current Status	Support
SB 1165 (Hensley) HB 0739 (Daniel)	As introduced, specifies that institutions of higher learning respect the freedom of speech and promote climates of mutual concerns about civility. Allows for restriction of expression only in cases where federal law is violated, a genuine threat is given, or when another place and time are designated for a specific expression.	Current Status	
SB 1333 (Yarbro) HB 1232 (Beck)	As introduced, prohibits HOA's from prohibiting the display of political or campaign posters or signs placed on private property that are not larger than 18 inches in height by 24 inches in width beginning 60 days before any election until the day after the election.	Current Status	
SJR 0035 (Beavers)	As introduced, recognizes pornography as a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms.	Current Status	